

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 19, 2004 LB 1144

Roads. That goes for handivans in our cities, villages, counties across the state, and the process for that is that you send in an application blank and I'm told if you do that you'll get your \$75,000 for a handivan. For the cities, because they're being left out of that, a few years ago the Legislature, trying to be fair, pulled some money out of General Fund to provide something for Lincoln and Omaha. This is a procedure and a process that obviously cannot be maintained. It's not particularly fair. Nobody designed it to be that way. We need to get this back on our plate where we can look at it. It is my intention to request an interim study on how to do this. Once we get it onto our plate, how do we do this, get all of the players, urban, rural, Roads into one room, let's talk about this and see what can be happening. We have...the background of this, I should say, is basically to help the elderly and handicapped and I think that's the way the funds have been used across the state, rural or urban. In the urban areas, it's used to reduce the bus fare. In the rural areas, it's used to buy handivans which then there is a lot of federal money goes into this, and as many on the floor be aware, you've got volunteers that keep these handivans going and so on. It's a good system. It helps people but it needs to have some management. It needs to have evaluation and that's the purpose of this bill. There will be an amendment and I'll speak to that when it comes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Kruse. You heard the opening on LB 1144. Mr. Clerk, a motion.

CLERK: Senator Kruse would move to amend with AM3242, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 1158.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kruse to open on AM3242 to LB 1144.

SENATOR KRUSE: Senator Cudaback and friends, this is a...I would call it a technical amendment but it's to respond to the questions that have been raised by the transitions that we are making here. We've had extensive conversations with a number of interested parties. And, basically, if you see this on your gadget, the operative words here are "fully fund" and that's what we're removing. Now those are words in present statute. They've been there for as many years as some of you have been